

Topline

# KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor: In Their Own Words, Six Months Later July 2021

## METHODOLOGY

This *KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor: In Their Own Words, Six Months Later* was designed and analyzed by public opinion researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF). The survey was conducted June 15-23, 2021 using the SSRS Opinion Panel, a nationally representative panel of U.S. adults age 18 or older recruited using probability-based sampling techniques. For the Kaiser Family Foundation, SSRS re-invited adult panelists in the U.S. who previously participated in a survey in January 14-18, 2021. The original sampling targeted panel respondents by gender, age, race, education, and region. SSRS regularly monitored data collection to check for demographic composition of the sample and data quality. Cases determined to be poor-quality, as defined by surveys with a length of interview of less than 33% of the mean length of interview and with invalid text responses were removed from the final data. In total, 1,009 panelists were invited to participate in this follow-up survey and 878 respondents completed the full questionnaire online on June 15-23, 2021 with additional follow-ups conducted on July 2, 2021. 859 surveys were completed in English and 19 surveys were completed in Spanish. Panelists were compensated for their participation, with incentives distributed by the SSRS Opinion Panel through their standard procedures.

The margin of sampling error including the design effect for the full sample is plus or minus 4 percentage points. Numbers of respondents and margins of sampling error for key subgroups are shown in the table below. For results based on other subgroups, the margin of sampling error may be higher. Sample sizes and margins of sampling error for other subgroups are available by request. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll. Kaiser Family Foundation public opinion and survey research is a charter member of the [Transparency Initiative of the American Association for Public Opinion Research](#).

Group	N (unweighted)	M.O.S.E.
Total	878	± 4 percentage points
Total who have gotten a COVID-19 vaccine	632	± 5 percentage points
Total who have not gotten a COVID-19 vaccine	246	± 8 percentage points
<b>January Vaccine Intentions</b>		
As soon as they can	395	± 6 percentage points
Wait and see	242	± 8 percentage points
Only if required/ Definitely not getting a vaccine	168	± 10 percentage points
<b>June Vaccine Intentions</b>		
Only if required/ Definitely not getting a vaccine	161	± 10 percentage points

Notes for reading the topline:

- Percentages may not always add up to 100 percent due to rounding.
- Values less than 0.5 percent are indicated by an asterisk (\*).
- "Vol." indicates a response was volunteered by the respondent, not offered as an explicit choice
- Questions are presented in the order asked; question numbers may not be sequential.

JUNE\_VACC1. Have you personally received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, or not?

	6/21
Yes, got one-dose vaccine	8
Yes, got first of two doses	4
Yes, got both doses of a two-dose vaccine	55
No, have not gotten the vaccine	33

Q4. How long ago did you receive your [first] vaccine?

*Based on those who have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine*

	6/21
Less than a month ago	7
Between 1 and 2 months ago	30
More than 2 months ago	63
	<i>n=632</i>

JUNE\_VACHES. As you may know, an FDA-authorized vaccine for COVID-19 is now available for free to all adults in the U.S. Do you think you will...?

*Based on those who have not gotten a COVID-19 vaccine*

	6/21
As soon as you can/Wait and see (NET)	37
Get the vaccine as soon as you can	6
Wait until it has been available for a while to see how it is working for other people	31
Only if required/Definitely not (NET)	63
Only get the vaccine if you are required to do so for work, school, or other activities	19
Definitely not get the vaccine	44
	<i>n=246</i>

VACC1/VACHES Combo table

*Based on total*

	6/21	1/21
Already received/As soon as you can	69	49
Already received at least one dose	67	8
Get vaccine as soon as you can	2	41
Wait until it has been available for a while to see how it is working for other people	10	28
Only get the vaccine if you are required to do so for work, school, or other activities	6	9
Definitely not get the vaccine	15	14
	<i>n=878</i>	<i>n=1009</i>

Q5. Do you have an appointment scheduled to get a COVID-19 vaccine?

*Based on those who have not gotten a COVID-19 vaccine but say they will "as soon as possible" or "wait and see"*

	6/21
Yes	3
No	97
	<i>n=85</i>

Q6. What is the main reason you have not gotten a COVID-19 vaccine?

*Based on those who have not gotten a COVID-19 vaccine, do not have an appointment*

	6/21	1/21 <sup>1</sup>
Side effects (NET)	21	36
Side effects (general mention)	13	22
Side effects (long-term)	6	8
Side effects (allergic reaction)	2	3
Side effects (feeling ill)	-	2
Side effects (severe)	-	1
Newness/Speed/Lack of testing (NET)	16	12
Speed of development/Not tested enough	11	12
Too new	4	1
Too unknown	1	-
Don't want it/Don't need it (NET)	10	3
Don't like shots/Needles/Don't get other vaccines	-	2
Just don't want it	3	*
Don't need it	7	-
Condition prevented them from getting it	7	-
Don't trust vaccine/Don't trust vaccines in general	7	-
Still want to wait and see	7	-
COVID-19 is not that bad/Vaccine is worse (NET)	7	1
COVID-19 is not that serious/exaggerated/99% survival	5	1
The vaccine is worse than COVID-19	2	1
Had COVID-19	5	-
Planning to get it/Haven't had time/Other barriers	4	-
Full FDA approval/Only approved for emergency use	3	-
The safety of COVID-19 vaccines (NET)	3	5
Safety (general)	3	3
Safety of vaccine for specific groups/immunocompromised	-	2
Access/Availability of vaccine (NET)	2	10
Access/Availability in a timely manner	-	4
Access/Availability (general mention)	-	2
Availability of getting an appointment	2	1
Access/Availability of second dose	-	1
Enough supply	-	1
Getting sick/Dying from the vaccine (NET)	2	4
Risk of death from the vaccine	2	1
Catching COVID-19 from the vaccine	-	1
Getting sick from the vaccine	-	1
Afraid	2	-
People are still getting sick/Vaccine doesn't work	2	-
Felt forced into it	2	-
Effectiveness (NET)	-	7
The effectiveness of the vaccine	-	6
Effectiveness of the vaccine against variants	-	2
Other	12	6
No concerns	-	17
	n=217	n=930

<sup>1</sup> January 2021 question wording was "What is the biggest concern you had/have, if any, about getting a COVID-19 vaccine?"  
*KFF COVID 19 Vaccine Monitor* (conducted June 15-23, 2021)

Q7. What, if anything, would motivate you to get fully vaccinated against COVID-19?

*Based on those who have not gotten a COVID-19 vaccine and do not have an appointment*

---

\$1,000,000  
\$5000  
50,000\$  
A change in my health or long term data that the shot is safe.  
A lot of proof  
Being forced to by law  
Cash  
Complete transparency, in the reporting of doses by product type - Mrna vs J&J -, reporting and timeline for reactions, and the continuation of reporting deaths by COVID and the vaccine. CDC has lowered the attribution of deaths due to COVID which is a step in the right direction.  
Conclusive research  
Different ingredients  
Don't know  
Enough time has passed to ensure the side effects aren't worse than covid.  
Full FDA approval and no social/political/media coercion  
Full FDA studies and not just pushed thru.  
God  
How people are reacting  
I am going to get it.  
I don't know  
I want the vaccine.  
I will be getting the vaccine.  
I would like to and I wish I could today  
If I got it  
If I knew 100% that it would keep me and my family safe  
If I needed to have it to fly.  
If it became a huge problem again  
If it wasn't only approved under emergency by FDA  
If it's side effects aren't bad  
I'm shure the vaccine is reliable  
Immunity to COVID  
Knowing it is 100 percent safe  
Knowing that 10 years from now I won't have an issue caused by the vaccine  
Less political pressure and cheesy incentives to get it  
Monetary  
Money  
More information, more honesty  
More research saying it works  
Not anything.  
Not at the present  
Not much at this point  
Not sure  
Not sure at this moment.  
Not sure if anything can make me  
Nothing  
NOTHING  
Nothing at this time  
Once I get the ok from my doctor saying that the allergic reaction they are afraid of is not going to be a risk to my life.  
One shot with no side effects and no death reports.  
Only if they make it mandatory  
Only time will motivate me.  
Opportunity to travel abroad  
Proof of safety to not exacerbate my condition after years of observation  
Read more reports from people who have taken the vaccine and investigate if they had side effects.  
Required by work  
Resurgence of cases, proliferation of new variants  
See it's success rate

See the results  
 Seeing more positive outcomes from the vaccine.  
 Success rate at high percentage  
 That everything return to normal so I can enjoy my family  
 That it is 100 percent safe  
 The ability to return to activities without fear of getting very sick from COVID-19  
 The mortality rate was significant or long term affects of covid were found to be more risk than the vaccine.  
 Time  
 Time and proof that it is working and has no lasting negative effects on the body.  
 To be safe from future variants  
 To go on vacations.  
 To see the vaccine companies assure that vaccine side affects are not to worry about. I would love to have my vaccine at my own doctors office  
 Understanding the long term effects.  
 Unsure.  
 Waiting to see if people have any adverse effects  
 Well if people were not dying  
 When I am done with chemo  
 Years of study and an idea about possible long term affects of the vaccine. There is only Emergency Use Authorization for the vaccines.  
 Not full approval for use as they have literally not completed the full testing process.

Q8. What feeling best describes how you feel now that you have been vaccinated?

*Based on those who have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine*

	6/21
Safe	24
Relief/Relieved	22
Great/Good	6
Free/Freedom	5
No longer worried about getting COVID/Getting serious case/Dying	3
Confident	3
Return to normal	2
Experienced side effects	2
Did not experience side effects	2
Happy	2
Better	1
Cautious	1
Felt good to help slow spread/Protect others	1
Less worried	1
Protected	1
Friends/Family visit	1
Not wearing a mask	1
Positive emotion (other mentions)	9
The same/Neutral	10
Negative emotion	1
Other	2
	<i>n=632</i>

Q9. What is the main reason you chose to get vaccinated?

*Based on those who have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine or have an appointment*

	6/21
Protect myself/Reduce risk	27
Afraid of catching the virus/Avoid getting sick	16
Was at-risk of getting sick due to age or other health condition	10
Protect family members	7
Herd immunity/Protect society/Protect community	6
Safety (general mention)	6
Get back to normal life	3
Self or family member previously had COVID-19	3
Travel	3
Work required/Essential worker/Health care worker	3
See friends or family members	2
Trust science	2
Family pressure/Encouragement	2
Health (general mention)	2
Didn't want to be limited by restrictions on unvaccinated people	1
Didn't want to transmit to others	1
Doctor encouraged it	1
Everyone else was getting it	1
Important/Smart/Right thing to do	1
Stop wearing a mask	1
Other	2
	<i>n=636</i>

Q10. Have you tried to persuade any of your close friends or family members to get vaccinated?

*Based on those who have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine or have an appointment to get vaccinated*

	6/21
Yes	65
No	35
	<i>n=636</i>

Q11. Thinking back to six months ago, do you think you are now (more) motivated to get vaccinated, (less) motivated to get vaccinated, or do you have about the same level of motivation?

*Based on those who have not gotten a COVID-19 vaccine*

	6/21
More motivated	9
Less motivated	25
Same level of motivation	65
	<i>n=246</i>

Q12. How long do you think you will wait before getting a COVID-19 vaccine?

*Sample sizes too small to report*

Q5/Q12 Combined

*Based on those who have not gotten a COVID-19 vaccine but say they will get it "ASAP" or "wait and see"*

---

	6/21
Have an appointment	3
A few more weeks	18
Between 1 and 3 months	9
Between 4 and 6 months	18
Between 7 months and a year	14
Plan on waiting more than a year	38
	<i>n=85</i>

Q13. Earlier this year you said you planned to wait until the vaccines had been available for a while to see how they are working for other people. Now, you say you don't plan on getting vaccinated. What, if anything, changed your mind?

*Based on those who said they would "wait and see" in January and say they'll get vaccinated "only if required" or "definitely not" in June*

---

All the side effects from the people I know who have gotten it.  
Clinical study  
Do not want to have any reactions like I did with the flu vaccine  
Don't feel I need it. Worry about the side effects, short-term and long-term.  
Don't feel that I need it  
Don't feel that is safe  
don't see a benefit either way at this point.  
done more research not at all sure I need it and dont want the risk  
I am more convinced that the mRNA vaccines are too novel, and the regulatory agencies overseeing all the CoVID vaccines are not acting in good faith.  
I am worried about side affects. I am unsure if I will even get vaccinated. It's still up in the air do for right now no I don't want to get it still need more education on it  
I don't believe it is safe  
I don't think I need it, numbers have been down & new information is still emerging.  
I dont trust the vaccine nor the creators of it. It is being pushed to hard with some states having million dollar lotteries to bribe people into getting it.  
I had Covid before a vaccine was available. I dont see the need to get vaccinated when I already have antibodies.  
I said if required by work  
I still don't know if I feel that it is a safe vaccine.  
I still don't trust them  
I've had the virus and I don't feel I need the vaccine.  
It came out too soon and issues already  
2040  
It has not been long enough to establish the long term effects of the vaccine. I will wait at least 5 more years to determine whether I believe these are safe for my family and myself. There have been too many instances in history where the government "takes action to help medically" and ends up killing thousands of people without remorse. I would rather fight the illness if/when I have to.  
May need it to work or travel  
My daughter has had covid and i never tested positive or showed symptoms, and she never had symptoms. My thought is I am either immune or I have antibodies. My other thought is that we didn't have it and they made the numbers grow by false positive tests.  
My husband got the vaccine and he experienced alot of side effects I usually end of having some all the listed side effects so that really has me no the not getting vaccinated side of things  
My parents got the vaccine and had minor side effects. Some of my friends said they couldn't swallow after and had stomach aches. I heard someone died on the news after and it was a female about my age that died of blood clots.  
New variants, vaccinated people getting vivid after the fact. Seems to be about as effective as a flu shot which I never bother to get.  
no  
Not enough proof of the side affects  
Not enough research



Nothing changed  
 Nothing has changed my mind  
 Number of vaccinated people and my low risk location  
 People are still getting sick, and having adverse reactions to the vaccines. I have personally seen multiple people out of work for 3-7 days after getting vaccinated due to not feeling well.  
 Recent news that Variants of the Virus are appearing.  
 Still haven't been sick with covid  
 The only reason I would get vaccinated is if it required or will help improve my chance of employment. We still do not know long term affects.  
 The over persistent push to get it and the "rewards" for getting it.  
 The recent news I have been seeing about the numerous variants of the virus. From what I have seen and heard the present vaccine may not work. If it does work, you will need a booster shot every 6 months. I have no intention of becoming a pin cushion.  
 The uncertainties it could have  
 There don't seem to be tangible benefits to getting it. People who are vaccinated can still get the virus.  
 There's more information about the China virus and the vaccines available to the public that helped me to make a sound and safe decision for myself  
 There's still not enough data proving that the vaccine is effective and definitely not enough data showing the side effects.  
 They need to make it so no one can have allergic reaction to it Or no bad outcomes from it  
 This event seems more and more just like the flu. Everyone is exposed and has the same chance of getting it. I never got a flu vaccine either. This whole mask thing is a joke. Most people wear them beneath their nose or even chin. This event is over for me except as mandated to me by those above me who control mr in some way such as employer.  
 Too much controversy on the news has made me have doubts.  
 Way too many people dying or having side effects vaccine is too new in my opinion  
 We are now starting to see adverse reactions, deaths and other problems with young people also. We don't know the long term affects on the body, reproduction etc. it could take years to see that information come out

Q14. Earlier this year you said you planned on getting vaccinated as soon as you were able. Now, you say you don't plan on getting vaccinated. What, if anything, changed your mind?

*Based on those who said they would get vaccinated "as soon as possible" in January and say "only if required" or "definitely not" in June*

---

COVID was not the pandemic it was made out to be and I am not getting vaccinated for it  
 Don't agree with this Government.  
 I have allergies considering the possible risks. The risks in my opinion are not a chance I'm willing to take.  
 I have not had time to go to a clinic and have not been required to.  
 I never said I want to get the shot  
 What's changed my mind is people telling me how sick they got after they received the vaccination I really don't want to be sick from a vaccination so i kind of lost interest

Q15. Earlier this year you said you planned on ["waiting to get vaccinated", "only getting vaccinated if required", "definitely not getting a vaccine"]. Did you learn or hear something that persuaded you to get vaccinated?

*Based on those who said they would "wait and see," "only if required," or "definitely not" get vaccinated in January and have been vaccinated*

---

	6/21
Yes	52
No	48
	n=188

Q15a. What did you learn or hear that persuaded you to get vaccinated?

*Based on those who learned something that persuaded them to get vaccinated*

	6/21
Friends, family members, and others getting vaccinated with minimal side effects	25
Protect myself and others	13
Easy to get vaccinated	12
Doctor or health care provider advice/Recommendation	11
Lifting of restrictions (Travel/Mask mandates)	9
Pressured by family or friends	8
Learned more information about the vaccine	6
Required	4
Being able to safely visit friends and family members	3
Other	9
	<i>n=102</i>

Q16. Again, earlier this year you said you [“waiting to get vaccinated”, “only getting vaccinated if required”, “definitely not getting a vaccine”]. Did anyone talk to you and persuade you to get vaccinated?

*Based on those who said they would “wait and see,” “only if required,” or “definitely not” get vaccinated in January and have been vaccinated since then*

	6/21
Yes	36
No	64
	<i>n=188</i>

Q17. What is your relationship with this person?

*Sample sizes too small to report*

Q16/Q17 Combined

*Based on those who said they would “wait and see,” “only if required,” or “definitely not” get vaccinated in January and have been vaccinated since then*

	6/21
Someone talked to them and persuaded them to get vaccinated	36
Close friend	5
Coworker/Classmate	2
Family member	17
Your own doctor or health care provider	10
Someone else (Please specify)	3
Nobody talked to them	64
	<i>n=188</i>

Q18. What did they say that persuaded you to get vaccinated?

*Based on those who said someone talked to them and persuaded them to get vaccinated*

---

"Remember I am at high risk so I think you should get vaccinated."

Age related issues and the risks involved.

Because of a health condition it was suggested complications she had seen in women during and after pregnancy who caught covid while pregnant

Covid causes lung damage not good with copd

Covid kills

Discussed my spouses immune system.

don't remember

Everyone was getting a vaccine

For my age 66 I can get it.

Get vaccinated or you can no longer sleep with me.

He offered during an unrelated appointment

I could not treated for the lymphoma on my lower left leg unless I was vaccinated

I had always planned to get vaccinated but my friend told me to stop waiting and go ahead and do it.

I have COPD and this vaccine could help me.

I was told by my doctor that she strongly recommend I get the vaccine, because I have diabetes.

I would probably have a hard time if I were to get COVID

if you are going to travel get the shot

if I got sick I would die in the hospital alone, without family near by.

if I would do it for them.

If not vaccinated we wouldn't be able to talk or hold each other at the family reunion.

In order to return to work unmasked

In order to work in the gift shop it was recommended to get the shots.

It had to due with a dramatically more urgent tone than that of his predecessor.

It is better to live than to die.

it was safe and available

it was the educated discussion we had

it will be better for me because you are over 75

It would be better for their health.

It would keep our family safe.

Just if we are going to travel I would need it.

Just said don't be stupid get the shot be safe

Just that I really needed the protection

Just the silence of the nagging was worth the shot.

Made to

My grandmother said she got it and i needed to and i told her i would and did she is 93 if ahe did it no problems i should to

My husband got vaccinated and encouraged me to do the same in case we got sick again.

Nag nag nag

Nothing they said just them getting it themselves

Our job is requiring us to get vaccinated

Protection of others

Safety for our child

She didn't want the virus in the house.

She got it

She had no lasting negative side effects.

So I can participate in community meetings

That he (my spouse) was concerned that I needed to be protected.

That I was required to get vaccinated before summer clinical rotations.

That it is good and effective.

That it was available nearby.

that it was safe and effective

That Pfizer and Moderna are safe and effective

That they didn't have any real side effects and that things worked well for them after

That they didnt feel many side effects

That they've taken in and their families did and everyone is feeling really good. No side effects or complications showed.

That with my autoimmune disease I would have a poor outcome if I got covid

That's the vaccine was safe and the side effects were minimal

They actually signed me up for the vaccine without my knowledge. They told me after they did it and I just went with it. No harm in getting it if I was already signed up.  
 They all were vaccinated and had no side affects, I would be the black sheep of the family if I did not get vaccinated  
 They did not tell me anything, they only told me that they had already gone for their first dose  
 They died  
 They had no bad side effects. Went with most reliable shot. Can't live in fear forever  
 They informed me of family with severe immunity deficiencies  
 They stated the benefits of the vaccination along with sharing their faith in the CDC and WHO. They also played on my patriotism stating that it was my duty as an American to get vaccinated, also asking if I wanted to be part of the solution or part of the problem.  
 They told they soon or a later they will make it required so I might as well just get it so I did  
 They took vaccine and felt ok  
 They were just talking to me about how would I feel passing the virus on to my kids or to my older family members if I get it (Or there is also all the other elderly people and/or kids I may come into contact with that I could pass it onto if I were to get it). And also we were talking about how the government will open more things up and life can get more back to normal when more people get vaccinated so I decided to do my part and get it.  
 Vaccination is one of the best way to fight this virus  
 We can go out eating, shopping, and having a vacation after get vaccinated.  
 You should get vaccinated because you can get sick with COVID-19

Q19. Do you feel that worry or stress related to COVID-19 has had a negative impact on your mental health [or not]?

	6/21
Yes	37
No	63

Q20. Have you or someone in your household tested positive for COVID-19 [or not]? IF YES ASK: Is that you or someone else in your household?

	6/21
Yes, I have tested positive	5
Yes, someone else in my household tested positive	8
Both me and someone in my household tested positive	5
No	82

FLU. Do you normally get a flu vaccine each year [or not]?

	6/21
Yes	51
No	49

**Panel Demographic Data**

Gender

	6/21	1/21
Male	48	48
Female	51	51
Other	*	*

Education

	6/21	1/21
Less than high school graduate	7	5
High school graduate	30	32
Some college	27	28
College +	35	35
Refused	*	*

Race/Ethnicity

	6/21	1/21
White, non-Hispanic	61	62
Black, non-Hispanic	11	12
Hispanic	17	16
Other	9	9
Refused	2	1

Party

	6/21	1/21
Republican	26	27
Democrat	32	32
Independent	38	38
Other	3	2
Don't know/Refused	*	1

Partylean

	6/21	1/21
Democratic	55	49
Republican	43	43
Neither/other	3	5
Refused/No answer	*	2
	<i>n</i> =369	<i>n</i> =434



**KFF**

**Headquarters and Conference Center**

185 Berry Street, Suite 2000  
San Francisco, CA 94107  
650-854-9400

**Washington Offices and Conference Center**

1330 G Street, NW Washington, DC 20005  
202-347-5270

This publication is available at [kff.org](http://kff.org).

**Filling the need for trusted information on national health issues**, KFF (Kaiser Family Foundation) is a nonprofit organization based in San Francisco, California.